



# ANNUAL REPORT

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on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE  
BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH  
AND MELCOMBE REGIS FOR  
THE YEAR 1953



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E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health*





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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE MAYOR (Councillor J. L. L. JAMES, J.P.)

Alderman A. BILES, J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. F. G. MEGORAN (Vice-Chairman)

Ald. A. P. BURT, J.P.

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Councillor Mrs. I. A. LEGH

Councillor H. McGRATH

Councillor L. T. NORTHCOTT



## STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

CHARLOTTE A. G. WARD, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

### Chief Sanitary Inspector :

†\*‡ H. HANDSCOMB, M.R.S.I.

### District Sanitary Inspectors :

†\* R. G. S. NEWBOULD, M.S.I.A.

†\* A. L. HARRIS, M.S.I.A.

† Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board

\* Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

‡ Smoke Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

### Clerical Staff :

Mr. F. H. HOUSE

Miss M. S. STEELE

In Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 it is stated that "it would be helpful in the Minister's view if full particulars, e.g. qualifications and duties, of the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers were published in the Report, together with a list indicating the Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health."

It is understood that in referring to the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers the Ministry has in mind the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The information requested is as follows :

My qualifications are as stated above and in addition to my appointment as Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth, I hold the following appointments :

- (a) Medical Officer of Health, Portland Urban District Council.
- (b) Port Medical Officer, Weymouth Port Health Authority.
- (c) South Dorset Area Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.
- (d) Physician i/c Weymouth Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Mr. Handscomb's qualifications are stated above and in addition to his statutory duties, he is responsible for the supervision and control of public conveniences in the Borough.

The only Committee of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health is the Public Health Committee.

HEALTH CENTRE,  
WESTHAM ROAD,  
WEYMOUTH  
June, 1954

**To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the Year 1953 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

The health of the Borough was maintained during the year and there were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease. There were 287 notifications of measles with one death. Sixteen cases of poliomyelitis were notified—six paralytic cases and ten non-paralytic—visitors and residents being equally affected.

The birth rate and death rate were approximately the same as those for the last two years and the infantile mortality rate while somewhat higher than last year's record low figure was still lower than that for the Country as a whole.

In last year's Report I stressed the importance of every baby being immunised against diphtheria and said that our freedom from this hitherto killing disease could be safeguarded only by a constant vigilance which might be difficult to maintain when the danger of infection is not immediately apparent. I would again stress this advice and extend it to include protection against Smallpox. This disfiguring and frequently fatal disease is still very common in the sea and air port towns of the Indian and African continents, travellers from which can reach this country by air a week or more before symptoms and signs of Smallpox may become apparent. The possibilities of danger are therefore real and they can be met by ensuring that every baby is vaccinated against Smallpox. This is best done at the age of three or four months when a feeding routine has been established and before "teething troubles" begin. Vaccination at this age causes a minimum of disturbance and re-vaccination in later years to meet a direct threat of Smallpox can be done without any ill effects. After infancy, however, primary vaccination may very occasionally produce unpleasant side effects and it therefore behoves every mother—and father—to have their babies protected against smallpox before the age of six months.

Mosquitoes and midges did not give rise to any serious nuisances, in fact the "salting" of Radipole Lake by the introduction of sea water during the previous year was found to have controlled midge breeding in the Lake.

The Lodmoor Marsh still remains as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and therefore an ever present threat which requires only heavy rainfall followed by a warm spell to bring about a return of the mosquito menace. The proper channelling and drainage of Lodmoor should be regarded as an urgent problem.

Mention is also made in this Report of the "sea-weed fly"—*Coelopa Frigida*—which was experienced during the year and dealt with by floating off on favourable tides the decaying sea-weed on which these flies breed.

The many other activities of the Public Health Department are mentioned in the body of the Report and I am most grateful to Mr. Harold Handscomb, Chief Sanitary Inspector for the great ability and energy he devotes to the detailed supervision of this work which continues to increase. In 1952, the number of pigs slaughtered in Weymouth was 3199, compared with 1395 in 1951. In 1953, this number again increased to 5918 pigs, and one Sanitary Inspector is now engaged on meat inspection duties for two whole days each week. Visits to caravan and camping sites rose from 162 in 1952, to 303 in 1953.

Supervision of public conveniences in the Borough is a responsibility of the Public Health Department and the Sanitary Inspectors made 811 inspections of these conveniences during the year. This compares with 659 inspections in 1952 and 514 in 1951. As the majority of these inspections have to be carried out during the summer months, I feel that consideration should be given to the appointment of a seasonal supervisor so as to allow the Inspectors to devote more time to their statutory duties during the busiest time of the year.

I am again happy to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation in the work of the Department afforded by my professional colleagues in practice in the Borough.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and consideration and my fellow officials and the Health Department Staff for their unfailing assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

E. J. GORDON WALLACE,

*Medical Officer of Health*



## STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) excluding 331 acres of tidal water	7,007
Mid-year Home Population (estimated by the Registrar General) ... ..	37,040
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1953)	11,375
Rateable Value (31st March, 1952) ... ..	£343,272
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1935-54) ...	£1,354

## CHIEF INDUSTRIES & EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

I am indebted to Mr. N. A. Pick, Manager of the Weymouth Employment Exchange, for the following information :—

### Registered Wholly Unemployed Persons

	1951			1952			1953		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
March	126	161	287	78	141	219	159	160	319
June	41	52	93	46	38	84	67	36	103
September	44	57	101	54	46	100	97	39	136
December	96	162	258	137	163	300	146	139	285

The main occupations in this area are :—

- Building and Civil Engineering
- Local and National Government Services
- Engineering
- Distributive
- Hotel and Catering
- Transport
- Shipping and Ship Repairing
- Railways
- Laundries
- Breweries
- Bakeries
- Radio Making Equipment
- Electrical and Scientific Instrument Making.
- Agriculture
- Garages

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF BOROUGH SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR 1953.

**Total Births**—610.

**Birth Rate** per 1,000 estimated population—16.47

**Comparability Factor**—1.00

**Standardised Birth Rate**—16.47

**Live Births**—592

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	282	280	562
Illegitimate	...	18	12	30
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	300	292	592
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Live Birth Rate** per 1,000 estimated population—15.98

**Stillbirths**—18

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	11	6	17
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	12	6	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Stillbirth Rate** per 1,000 estimated population—0.48

**Stillbirth Rate** per 1,000 (live and still) births—29.5

**Deaths**—413. Males—204. Females—209.

**Death Rate** per 1,000 estimated population—11.15

**Comparability Factor**—0.81

**Standardised Death Rate**—9.03

**Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.**

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	3	8	11
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	4	8	12
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### Infant Mortality Rates

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	20.27
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			19.57
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			33.33
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	...	...	11.82
Deaths from Puerperal Causes		...	1

**TOTAL DEATHS 1953.** (Registrar General's Official Returns)

All Causes—413. Males—204. Females—209.

Cause of Death.			Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	6	4
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	1	...
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	1
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	7	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	17	22
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	3	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	26	40
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	40	27
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	3	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	22	39
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	6	8
22.	Influenza	...	2	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	4	9
24.	Bronchitis	...	8	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	2	...
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	6	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	3	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	4	...
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	22	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	6	...
35.	Suicide	...	8	...
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...
TOTAL			204	209

**S.D.55.**

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain infectious diseases in the year 1953. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 C.B.'s. and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census	London Admin. County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population :—				
<b>Births :</b>				
Live Births ...	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still Births ...	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
<b>Deaths :—</b>				
All Causes ...	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis ...	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza ...	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioence- phalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia ...	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
<b>Notifications :—</b> (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever ...	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ...	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia ...	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioence- phalitis)				
Paralytic ...	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-Paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23 (a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—				
<b>Deaths :—</b>				
All causes under 1 year of age ...	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.



Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A.115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	68	0.10	1
A.116 { Abortion with toxæmia.	7	0.01	—
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium.	166	0.24	—
A.117 Haemorrhage of preg- nancy and childbirth.	90	0.13	—
A.118 Abortion without men- tion of sepsis or tox- æmia.	30	0.04	3
A.119 Abortion with sepsis.	39	0.06	4
A.120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	125	0.18	—

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate of 16.47 per 1,000 population is very slightly higher than that of the preceding year (16.01).

Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 179.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths was 413—204 males and 209 females—giving a crude death rate of 11.15 per 1,000 population. By applying the Comparability Factor (0.81) the Standardised Death Rate is found to be 9.03. This is the lowest annual death rate for the Borough since the Comparability Factor was re-introduced in 1949.

(The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude death rates.)

There was one maternal death during the year, and there was one death from Measles. Seven of the twelve infant deaths occurred during the neo-natal period, i.e. under four weeks of age.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It was again a quiet year so far as notifiable infectious diseases were concerned. Measles again headed the list with 287 notifications, almost all of them in the first six months of the year.

Notifications of poliomyelitis were received in respect of eight residents—three paralytic cases and five non-paralytic—and a similar number in respect of visitors in like ratio.

Once again I would remind parents that—when polio is about—unnecessary gatherings of children should be avoided. One should also avoid becoming unduly fatigued, as exhausting physical exercise, by children and adults alike, is apt to precipitate infection and to cause more extensive paralysis.

So far as diphtheria is concerned, I will only say that the great majority of parents are sensible enough to realise that immunisation has given us this freedom from what was once a deadly peril to young lives, but this very freedom from danger is causing a minority of parents to neglect their defences.

Parents should realise too, that it is most important to maintain their children's immunity throughout school life. This is done by one "reinforcing" or "booster" injection every four or five years.

### Suspected Case of Smallpox

At about 9-30 p.m., on Thursday, 2nd April, 1953 (the evening before Good Friday), I received a telephone message from the House Physician at the Weymouth and District (General) Hospital that a Pakistani Airman had just been brought to Hospital by ambulance. As the patient had a rash on his face and was feverish, he asked me to see him.

The distribution of the rash was such that a diagnosis of smallpox could not be ruled out and the patient was at once admitted to a detached empty ward at Westhaven (Isolation) Hospital and specimens of vesicle fluid, crusts and venous blood were sent next morning by passenger train to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale.

On 4th April the patient was seen by another Smallpox Consultant who agreed that a diagnosis of smallpox could not be entirely eliminated but that it was reasonable to retain the patient in the I.D. Hospital pending receipt of reports from the Virus Reference Laboratory.

On 5th April (Easter Sunday) Colindale reported that Complement Fixation Tests were negative and on the 7th that egg-yolk cultures for Smallpox were also negative.

The diagnosis was therefore one of chickenpox with an unusual distribution of the rash. The patient made an uneventful recovery and was discharged from Hospital to his unit on 16th April, 1953.

Investigation showed that the patient was one of 80 Pakistani Air Force apprentices in training at an R.A.F. Station in Somerset who had come to spend their Easter leave in Weymouth. They were living in three hotels.

The proprietor, his family, and staff of the hotel at which the patient was staying, the House Physician at the General Hospital and 22 Pakistanis who were immediate contacts of the case were vaccinated on Saturday, 4th April, and the patient's bedclothes and bedding were subjected to steam disinfection. Twenty-five members of the nursing and domestic staff at the I.D. Hospital were also vaccinated on that day and arrangements made to vaccinate the remainder on Monday, 6th April. This in fact amounted to the yearly re-vaccination of the hospital staff as their vaccinal state is kept up annually and it was due in April anyway.

Annual re-vaccination of the driver-attendants at the Weymouth Ambulance Depot and of the Health Department staff had been done 14 days previously.

The Ministry of Health and other medical and administrative officers were kept informed of the situation and the incident passed off with a minimum of local disturbance except perhaps to the Medical Officer of Health whose Easter week-end was somewhat busier than it might otherwise have been!

### **Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953**

These Regulations, which came into force on 1st April, 1953, enable a local authority to authorise its Medical Officer of Health to take the prescribed action in an emergency in order to prevent the spread of infection.

On the recommendation of the Health Committee the Town Council resolved :

“ That the Medical Officer of Health be authorised generally to issue any notice on behalf of the Corporation under Part II or Part III of the Fourth Schedule to the Regulations in relation to any particular case if in his judgment it is immediately and urgently necessary for him to do so for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection.”

It was not necessary for me to take any such action during the year.

### **Superannuation Medical Examinations**

During the year, twelve entrants into the Corporation's employ were medically examined as to their fitness for inclusion in the Council's Superannuation Scheme.



## Laboratory Facilities

The County Laboratory at Dorchester, under the direction of Dr. T. V. Cooper, and the separate Public Health Laboratory there, under Dr. G. H. Tee, have given every possible assistance in the work of the Health Department and their ready co-operation at all times has been much appreciated.

## INFESTATION.

### Scabies and Head Infestation.

The tables which follow show that there has again been a slight increase in the number of scabies cases dealt with while the number of cases of Head Infestation is the lowest ever recorded.

It will be remembered that Scabies is a notifiable disease in the Borough.

#### SCABIES

Year	Total No. notified	No. Notified by Practitioner	No. Notified by Public Health Dept.	Total Number of Treatments (incl. contacts)
1943	618	218	400	2187
1944	598	124	474	1882
1945	275	72	203	1078
1946	108	63	135	992
1947	80	32	48	599
1948	71	23	48	241
1949	26	6	20	67
1950	30	7	23	54
1951	9	3	6	15
1952	16	6	10	25
1953	19	3	16	31

#### HEAD INFESTATION

Year	Number of Infested Persons	Adult	School	Under 5	Total No. of Treatments
1944	594	148	411	35	894
1945	305	87	283	35	405
1946	310	117	203	40	461
1947	164	40	96	28	304
1948	143	19	110	14	266
1949	106	13	80	13	197
1950	109	20	71	18	173
1951	99	11	78	10	184
1952	70	6	60	4	83
1953	53	4	47	2	57



Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during 1953

DISEASE	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 plus	Unknown
Scarlet Fever	...	8	2	4	14	...	1	4	8	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	5	4	20	15	44	2	12	13	16	...	...	1	...
Ac. Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	...	...	6	...	6	...	1	...	1	1	1	2	...
Non-Paralytic	...	...	9	1	10	...	...	...	2	2	5	1	...
Measles	126	149	12	...	287	5	52	89	127	6	1	6	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...

DISEASE	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Unknown	
Ac. Pneumonia	30	5	5	9	49	4	8	5	13	17	2	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Encephalitis : Infective	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-infectious	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	4	1	5	...	...	1	1	2	1	
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	..	...	..	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	1	2	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	8	7	17	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	..	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...

### **Verminous Premises**

Verminous premises are treated with suitable liquid and powder insecticide and, where necessary, articles of clothing and bedding are treated in the Department's steam disinfectant plant.

Facilities are available at the Health Centre for personal cleansing and as far as possible the treatment of persons, their clothing and premises is carried out at one time.

The number of houses disinfested was 61 which is an increase of 24 on the previous year. The majority of these were minor flea infestations.

No infestations by bed bugs were reported or dealt with during the year but one serious infestation due to lice was reported. In this case the person concerned was disinfested at the Health Centre and two separate treatments were carried out at her place of residence.

### **Verminous Persons**

As it is desirable that arrangements for dealing with verminous persons should be carried out with a minimum of delay, the Town Council, in June, 1953, delegated their powers and duties under Section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936, including the institution of legal proceedings, to a special committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other member of the Health Committee.

No such statutory action was, however, necessary during the year.

### **Food Poisoning**

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year but three single cases were reported and investigated. In all three cases no specimens of suspected foods were available for bacteriological examination. In one case, however, a specimen of faeces indicated that the organism responsible was salmonella typhi murium but the source of infection could not be traced.

I am glad to say that all three patients made rapid recoveries.

### **Humane Killer for Cats and Dogs**

The apparatus supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The number of animals dealt with during the year was 405, which shows an increase of 30 over the previous year.

Again I must record my appreciation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the continued loan of the apparatus.

Details of animals dealt with during 1953 are as follows :—

Dogs	...	...	190
Cats	...	...	215
			<hr/>
Total	...		405
			<hr/>

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952, and provides that no person shall keep a Pet Shop unless he holds a licence granted in accordance with the Act. I reported in detail on this Act in my last Annual Report.

Mr. F. Horner, the local inspector for the R.S.P.C.A., continued in his appointment as an honorary officer of the Corporation for the purpose of the Act and carried out a number of inspections.

The total number of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and Mr. Horner was 29.

Two applications for renewal of licences to keep Pet Shops were approved. Appropriate conditions relating to the humane treatment of animals were attached to both licences.

### **Mortuary**

Very little use was made of the Town Mortuary in Commercial Road and the majority of post mortem examinations were carried out at the Weymouth and District Hospital where better facilities are available.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47**

Under this Act and the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Town Council is empowered to take steps to secure the removal to suitable accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. During the year it was not necessary to take any statutory action but seven cases were kept under observation, 22 routine visits being made by the Sanitary Inspectors for this purpose.

The cases referred to were all elderly persons living alone. In one case an elderly woman was found to be verminous and it was necessary to carry out personal disinfestation and the disinfestation of her premises. In all other cases the elderly persons were being looked after by friends and relations but such cases are kept under observation until permanent arrangements for their care are made.

### **WATER SUPPLY**

The water in the Borough is provided by the Weymouth Waterworks Company, the main supplies being from springs at

Empool and Sutton Poyntz. The water being fairly hard does not give rise to danger from Plumbo-solvent action, and both quality and quantity have been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. No outbreaks of illness which could be traced to the water have occurred and it may be said that the supply continues to be very good for drinking and domestic purposes and shows a high degree of purity.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the Engineer and Manager, Mr. S. E. Barrett, A.M.Inst.C.E., and there is constant exchange of the results of samples taken by the Company and Health Department.

### SUMMARY OF BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

Total Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Suspicious
58	54	4	Nil

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Sample taken on 9th November, 1953.

Fountain, Empool Pumping Station	Sutton Poyntz Spring
(Before Chlorination)	

#### Physical Examination :

Colour	...	None	None
Appearance	...	Clear	Clear

#### General Chemical Examination :

Reaction	...	pH 7.1	pH 7.3
	...	Parts per Million	
Free and Saline Ammonia		Less than .01	0.016
Albuminoid Ammonia		Less than .01	0.028
Chlorine (as Chlorides)		20.5	21.5
equivalent to Sodium Chlorides	...	33	35.5
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)		0.12	0.12
Nitrite	...	Very faint trace	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrate	...	3.3	3.3
Total solids	...	347	283
Loss on ignition	...	28	23
Appearance on ignition		No charring	No charring
Hardness :			
Temporary	...	229	183
Permanent	...	38	40
Total	...	267	223
Lead and Copper	...	absent	absent



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The greater part of the Borough is served by sewers but there is still a large area in Preston, Sutton Poyntz, Overcombe and Bowleaze where main drainage is not available.

The Town Council resolved some years ago that the erection of new dwellings should not be permitted in these districts until main drainage had been provided and I have reported each year on the steps taken to expedite the provision of sewers to serve the Preston area.

The Preston drainage scheme was advertised in the local press during August, 1952, and in August of 1953 an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government attended at the Guildhall to investigate the scheme. I gave evidence on the necessity for the scheme and the Inspector subsequently visited the Preston area where he saw for himself the present unsatisfactory drainage arrangements.

At the meeting of the Town Council in November, 1953, the Street and Works Committee reported as follows :—

“ Preston Drainage Scheme. Letter was submitted from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (D.IK/15) intimating that the Minister has considered the report by his Engineering Inspector on the Inquiry into the Town Council's proposals for the sewerage of the Preston area and has approved the scheme in principle. The Council may now proceed with the preparation of the contract documents but the Minister should not be considered as being committed to the issue of loan consent for the work to proceed at any particular date as the case will fall for further consideration in the light of the restricted capital investment programme obtaining at the date when the documents are completed.

With regard to the Council's application in accordance with the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, the Minister regrets he is unable to accept the area proposed to be served by the scheme as a rural locality and in the circumstances he is unable to offer any exchequer assistance towards the cost.

In July, 1951, the Council approved the Preston Drainage Scheme at an estimated cost of £79,967 including a sum of £9,250 in respect of proposed sewers, etc., in the Jordan Valley and the Council decided that at the appropriate time the owners of land used as camping sites should be approached with a view to such owners making a contribution towards the cost of the proposed work.

For the purpose of the Council's application for grant under the Rural Water Supplies Act an amended estimate of the cost of the scheme was submitted at £82,490 in order to

cover variations in costs up to that time, viz. October, 1951. The Committee think it well to remind the Council that when the work envisaged in this scheme has been carried out the cost to the Council in respect of interest and sinking fund charges on the above estimate of cost will be between £5,000 and £6,000 per annum.

RECOMMENDED—That authority be given the Consulting Engineers (Messrs. Howard Humphreys and Son) to proceed with the preparation of contract documents and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Town Clerk be authorised to decide the scope of such instructions.

Note—The Finance and Law Committee concur in the above recommendation.”

The Town Council adopted this recommendation and the contract documents are now in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers.

It is now to be hoped that the Preston drainage scheme will materialise in the not too distant future. It must be remembered that a scheme of this magnitude must take some years to be carried out even after the contract has been awarded and it must still be some time before the unsatisfactory drainage in Preston can be remedied and new building considered once more.

During the year I am pleased to record that eight cesspools or septic tanks and three earth closets were eliminated and this resulted in 31 houses being connected to the main sewer.

Arrangements for the disposal of sewage from the remainder of the Borough continued as before. All sewage is disposed of by pumping to a sea outfall and the main pumps for this work are situated in the Corporation Depot Yard at Westham.

There is still a large number of cesspools in use in areas where main sewers are already available and efforts continue to be made to have these cesspools abolished by connection of house drains to the main sewers.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN BOROUGH

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number of houses in the Borough ...	...	...	11,238
Number of houses served by cesspools (approx.)	...	...	714
Number of cesspools (approx.)	...	...	478
Number of pail closets (approx.)	...	...	218

### PARTICULARS OF CONVERSION FROM CONSERVANCY TO MAIN DRAINAGE SYSTEM DURING 1953

Number of premises converted	...	...	31
Number of cesspools abolished	...	...	8
Number of earth closets abolished	...	...	3



## HOUSING

### (a) Unfit Houses

The housing shortage continued during the year but it was possible to take statutory action with regard to a limited number of unfit houses. Details of this action are reported in succeeding paragraphs.

With regard to substandard houses action was limited to the remedying of leaking roofs, dampness in walls, defective floors, and similar urgent matters. In all cases where action was required it was taken under the provisions of Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Owners appreciated that items brought to their notice by the Department were of an urgent character and in most instances they carried out the necessary repairs without undue delay.

There are of course very many sub-standard houses still in occupation in the Borough and sooner or later each one will have to be considered as to whether it is repairable or has reached such a state of disrepair that demolition is the only solution.

During the year there was much discussion on the proposed Housing, Rents and Repairs Bill, which was before Parliament. In December the Town Council sent representatives to attend a Conference in London on Housing and Slum Clearance. The Conference dealt with proposals made in the Government's Bill and it was realised that, if and when the Bill becomes law, it will place an additional burden on the Department. The Bill proposes that a survey of houses should be carried out within one year of the Act coming into force and at the end of that time the Council's proposals for dealing with slum clearance must be completed and forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

### (b) Action taken under the Housing Act, 1936

Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8 Park Street and Nos. 2 and 3 James Court, all of which were subject to Clearance Orders made in 1939, were demolished during the year.

The following were also demolished during the year :—

No. 1 Franchise St. (subject to a demolition order made in 1943)  
 No. 3 Franchise St. (subject to a demolition order made in 1947)  
 Nos. 1, 2, 3, Farwell's Cottages (subject to demolition orders made in 1946).

The following dwellings were represented during the year as unfit houses under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, and demolition orders made in each case :—

Nos. 2 and 3, Beales Court.  
 Nos. 32 and 33 East Street.

No. 7 Governors Lane was also represented under Section II of the Act and in this case an undertaking not to use for human habitation until the premises had been made fit for that purpose was accepted by the Town Council.

Action under Section 12 of the Act was taken in respect of a basement apartment at 39 East Street and as a result a Closing Order was made.

Late in 1953 representations were made under Section 11 of the Act in respect of the following dwellings, but action had not been completed by the end of the year.

No. 690 Dorchester Road

Caravan situated rear of 269a Dorchester Road

### HOUSING ACT, 1936

#### Position at 31st December, 1953

Premises	Still occupied as dwellings	Used as Store or work-places	Vacant	Total
Houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Orders not yet demolished ... ..	5	10	7	22
Parts of Buildings subject to Closing Orders ... ..	1	5	2	8
Houses subject to U/D not to re-let for human habitation	1	2	9	12
Houses subject to U/D to make fit ... ..	1	—	—	1

#### (c) Applications for re-housing

Again this year a considerable amount of time was spent on the investigation of claims by housing applicants for priority recommendations on public health grounds.

In 1952, this work had necessitated 432 visits by the Sanitary Inspectors. This year 295 visits were made, pressure of other departmental duties making it necessary to reduce the number of such visits to an absolute minimum.

It is natural that each applicant should feel that his or her case is the one which deserves the highest priority. Apart from the very many interviews at the Health Centre where each caller is given a sympathetic hearing a report is prepared following home visits and a departmental discussion is held to try to assess the real need in every case.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector attends each meeting of the Housing Allocation Sub-Committee to present the Department's views on applications which claim special consideration on public health grounds.



## MOSQUITO AND MIDGE CONTROL

### (1) Radipole Lake

In my Report for the previous year I gave full details of an experiment which was carried out for the control of the *Chironomus* midge in Radipole Lake by the introduction of sea water. The introduction of sea water into the Lake did eliminate midge breeding and, except for the very few midges which one might expect anywhere during the summer months, it could safely be said that midge breeding had been overcome by the addition of sodium chloride (by sea water) into the Lake. I also mentioned in my last report that the Town Council had agreed to the routine interchange of water between the Harbour and Radipole Lake in order to increase the salinity of the Lake. In the same report I also recorded that this operation had to be discontinued because of the appearance of *Mercierella enigmatica*—a worm which produced a coral-like growth. The coral growth became such a danger to the sluices and culverts that it was necessary to discontinue the interchange of water and during 1953 no sea water whatsoever was allowed into the Lake.

Mr. Norman Tebble of the Annelida Section of the British Museum continued his research into the life of *mercierella enigmatica* in Radipole Lake and his opinion that the salinity of the lake during 1952 would remain effective for the control of midges during the summer of 1953 was quite justified. The Department continued to take a number of samples from the Lake and Harbour for determination of sodium chloride content and the samples again this year were examined by Mr. A. S. Blatchford, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Weymouth. I again record my indebtedness to Mr. Blatchford for his continued interest and assistance in this work.

At the beginning of the year the Borough Engineer arranged for the main western channel in Radipole Lake to be cleaned out and this resulted in an improved flow of water from the Lake towards the Harbour. The drainage channels on the marshy area to the west of the main western channel were cleaned out and once again during the year reeds were removed from the Lake along Radipole Park Drive for thatching purposes. All these measures contributed to midge control generally.

### (2) Lodmoor

Progress was made in connection with the purchase of Lodmoor by the Corporation and at the end of the year only a very small area remained in other ownership.

Tipping of refuse on the south-western corner of Lodmoor was continued during the winter months and by the end of the year practically the whole of the marshy area behind Melcombe

Avenue had been filled in. The Borough Engineer further extended the culvert draining this area prior to the completion of tipping operations.

During the summer months tipping was transferred to a point as distant from houses as possible and no serious fly infestations occurred in the area. I am very pleased to record that the Borough Engineer's Department paid considerable attention to the carrying out of controlled tipping during the summer months so as to keep both fly breeding and rat infestation to a minimum.

In my Report for the previous year I mentioned that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had not given consent to the scheme of drainage and other work for dealing with the control of mosquito breeding within the area. The repair of the Greenhill sluices must, however, be regarded as priority work as far as the drainage of Lodmoor is concerned as this work is the first essential in reducing the water area in Lodmoor and is the first line of attack against mosquito breeding. I am glad to say that early in 1954 the Ministry agreed to a loan for the repair of the tidal flaps at Greenhill and when these repairs are carried out it is hoped that the breeding area of Lodmoor will be brought within smaller limits. Other than drainage work in connection with the progress of controlled tipping no actual drainage works or other mosquito control measures were carried out on Lodmoor during the year but I am pleased to say, nevertheless, that mosquito breeding was not on the scale of previous years and only an occasional complaint was made to the Department with regard to mosquitoes during the year.

Now that controlled tipping is proceeding to such good effect the Council will of necessity have to face the drainage problems which must occur in the course of this work. The marshy area of Lodmoor is so vast that controlled tipping alone will not supply the answer to the mosquito breeding problem and it is hoped that some reasonable scheme for drainage, in advance of controlled tipping, will be agreed by the Council when the sluices at Greenhill have been put in order.

### **SEAWEED FLY—COELOPA FRIGIDA**

Considerable publicity was given in the National Press to the prevalence of *Coelopa Frigida*, otherwise the "seaweed fly," in South coast towns towards the end of the year. There is no doubt, however, that this fly has been living on our part of the South coast for a considerable number of years.

In November, after an unusually long period of mild weather, it was found that seaweed fly breeding had increased considerably in one or two places on the coast line within the Borough. An energetic attack was made to prevent the breeding of this fly by floating off on favourable tides all decaying seaweed containing



the fly larvae. The efficacy of this method could not be doubted when it was seen that both seagulls and fish were attracted to the decaying seaweed which contained thousands of immature forms of *coelopa frigida*. It was also found that flies were beginning to breed in small numbers on seaweed thrown up on the sandy beaches but after removal of the seaweed no further evidence of breeding was found. The flies were most numerous on shingle beaches where seaweed had been cast up and allowed to decay but it is hoped that the measures taken will have prevented any unusual occurrence of the fly during the coming season.

Unfortunately these flies are no respectors of Borough boundaries and fly breeding was to be found also on isolated shingle beaches well outside the Borough.

## CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

Again during the summer, camping and caravanning were as popular in the Borough as in previous years. During some weeks of the summer all the licensed camping sites were full and fields in and around the Preston area held large numbers of caravans and tents whose owners were unable to find places in the licensed sites.

Camping and caravanning are no doubt increasing in popularity and more and more people each year crowd into the rural area of Preston where there is no main drainage system. I have mentioned earlier in this Report the progress made with regard to the Preston drainage scheme and I must mention once again my anxiety with regard to the ever increasing popularity of Preston as a camping area whilst conservancy methods of sanitation have to be used.

Licensees paid particular attention to the hygiene of bucket closets but again this year the few complaints received were in respect of this method of sanitation.

I am pleased to record that Licensees continued to co-operate with the Health Department in all aspects of the Department's work and the general standard of licensed sites has improved each year.

As an instance of this licensees were found to be setting a higher standard with regard to caravans accepted on their sites and the older and poorer types of caravans are gradually disappearing.

One of the remaining licensed sites taking permanent residents decided to close for the winter months and at the end of the year there were only two licensed sites in Preston at which permanent residents were permitted. At these two sites only a few caravans remained occupied and it seems to be the general intention of all licensees to limit camping to the summer months only.

Organised camping under canvas was again popular in Preston but it was not possible to visit all the organisations which camped in the area because of the tremendous volume of other public health work with which the Department was faced during the summer.

### **Unauthorised Camping—Legal Proceedings**

It was necessary to pay particular attention to three unlicensed sites on which it was believed that camping was continuing for more than the maximum of 42 consecutive days as laid down in the Public Health Act, 1936.

Daily visits were made to each of these sites for more than 42 consecutive days and in two cases the owners were found to be permitting camping in excess of that period. In the third case the owner of the land restricted the use of the site to organisations exempted from the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Reports were made to the Town Council and it was decided that legal proceedings should be taken against the owners of the two sites concerned. Such action was eventually taken early in 1954 and in both cases the maximum fines of £5 were imposed and costs were awarded to the Corporation.

### **Inspections**

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 303 inspections of caravans and camping sites. A large number of these were in connection with the unlicensed sites mentioned in the preceding paragraphs but nevertheless this figure is almost double the number of inspections carried out in the previous year. From this large number of inspections it can be seen that a considerable amount of time has to be devoted to the supervision of camping sites in the busiest part of the year.

### **Applications for Licences under the Public Health Act, 1936.**

Two applications to use land as sites for camping purposes were received during 1953. Both applications were refused on public health grounds.

During the year action was commenced under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, with regard to one caravan used for permanent residence. The caravan was so dilapidated that it was not fit for human habitation. Statutory action was not however completed by the end of the year.

## **FOOD HYGIENE**

I mentioned in my last report that the commencement of a Clean Food Campaign in 1952 met with so little support that the campaign in its intended form had to be abandoned. It was then decided to pay more particular attention to the inspection of food premises and in 1953 the total number of inspections of food premises carried out was 555.



At these inspections the requirements of the food bye-laws were brought to the attention of persons concerned and at the same time notices required by the bye-laws to be exhibited in food premises were provided by the Department free of charge.

In very many instances minor contraventions of the food bye-laws were dealt with at the time of inspection but it was necessary, however, to serve 40 informal notices for matters requiring attention under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the food bye-laws. These informal notices covered 54 items and by the end of the year 44 of these items had been remedied.

The following are details of food premises in the Borough.

No. of licensed premises in Borough (for consumption on or off the premises)	...	...	...	...	...	99
No. of off-licences	...	...	...	...	...	20
No. of registered clubs where liquor is sold	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of chemist's shops	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of food premises	...	...	...	...	...	381
(including the off-licences, many of which sell other foods)						
No. of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed pickled or preserved food intended for sale	...	...	...	...	...	31
No. of fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	14

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

No. of visits to food premises	...	...	...	...	...	555
No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	40
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	30
No. of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	54
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	44

#### ICE CREAM

The number of inspections made of premises where ice cream was manufactured, stored, or on sale to the public was 218. This is an increase of 43 over the previous year.

Samples of ice cream sent to the Laboratory for routine tests numbered 70 and, though results at first sight do not appear to be satisfactory, the high percentage of unsatisfactory samples is accounted for by the fact that the Department concentrated on samples from dealers whose previous results were doubtful or unsatisfactory. For this reason further samples from the usually satisfactory dealers were not taken. Adverse samples were followed up by visits to the premises concerned and there was no lack of co-operation on the part of manufacturers and vendors to improve their standards where necessary.

At the end of the year 173 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream in the Borough. This figure includes nine premises where ice cream was manufactured.

It will be seen that 53 samples of iced lollies were taken and the first 11 samples were found to contain considerable numbers of bacillus coli. I am pleased to say, however, that subsequent samples showed an improvement. There is as yet no statutory bacteriological standard for ice cream or iced lollies.

Supervision of the manufacture and sale of ice cream is of course one of the Department's more important duties, particularly during the summer season, and this work occupies a fairly large proportion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time during the season each year.

### Ice Cream Sampling

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test Passed	Failed	Grades			
			1	2	3	4
77	54	23	24	30	16	7

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Grade 1 and Grade 2	...	70.13% satisfactory
Grade 3 and Grade 4	...	29.87% unsatisfactory

### ICED LOLLIES

No. of Samples taken	...	...	53
No. of Samples which showed bacillus coli (over 180)	...	...	11
No. of Samples which showed faecal coli	...	...	Nil

### MILK SUPPLIES

(1) The responsibility for registration of dairy farms and farmers and the supervision of milk production at farms remained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, except insofar as the Regulations relate to diseases communicable to man.

At the beginning of the year it became known that the Minister of Food was considering inclusion of the Borough in a "Specified Area" under the provisions of Section 23 of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies, and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

By the end of the year no further information had been received but the Order was made in March, 1954, and I will report on this fully in my next Annual Report.

At the end of the year entries on the Department's Registers were as follows :—

#### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Distributors of milk with premises within the Borough	20
Distributors of milk with premises outside the Borough but retailing within the Borough	Nil
Dairy farms distributing from within the Borough	6
Dairy farms distributing from outside the Borough	1
Premises registered as Dairies	8

(2) **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949**  
**Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949**

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows :

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	11
Accredited Milk	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	17
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Supplementary)	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	...	...	...	1

(3) **Milk Sampling**

(a) The number of samples of milk taken by the Department for bacteriological examination was 192. This shows an increase of 37 over the previous year. Samples of heat treated milk taken in the Borough by Sampling Officers of Dorset County Council numbered 453—an increase of 240 over the previous year. The Dorset County Council is the licensing authority for Dealers who pasteurise or sterilise milk.

There is one pasteurising plant within the Borough.

Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops during the year ... 62

**Milk Sampling**

Details of samples taken are as follows :

Sample Designation	No. taken	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Undesignated	53	49	4	—	—
T.T.	62	38	24	—	—
Accredited	5	3	2	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	247	247	—	245	2
Pasteurised	278	278	—	277	1

It will be seen from the samples of T.T. milk that there were 24 failures of the Methylene Blue Test out of a total of 38 samples taken. Practically all of these failures were from one dealer and special action was taken to ascertain the reason for this. The 16 bottle rinse samples referred to below were all taken from this dealer's premises but it was found eventually that the cause of the failures was unsatisfactory sterilization of churns. Investigations continued into the early months of 1954.

**Summary of Results**

Total number of samples taken	...	...	645
Total number classed as satisfactory	...	...	611
Total number classed as unsatisfactory	...	...	33
Number of samples taken for biological examination—24, all of which were satisfactory.			
Bottle rinse samples taken	...	...	16



## FOOD SUPPLIES

### (1) MEAT INSPECTION

#### (i) Dorchester Abattoir

The financial agreement between the Borough of Weymouth and the Borough of Dorchester with regard to payment for meat inspection duties at Dorchester Abattoir was continued during 1953. Under this arrangement the Weymouth Corporation paid a proportion of the Dorchester Meat Inspector's salary as this abattoir also deals with the majority of animals slaughtered for sale in Weymouth.

#### (ii) Weymouth—Slaughterhouse/Bacon Factory

I recorded in my Annual Report for 1952 that the number of animals slaughtered that year was more than double the number slaughtered in 1951. This year the number of pigs killed was 5918 as compared with 3199 for 1952. The number of visits made to the slaughterhouse in 1953 was 193 and for the previous year this number was 132.

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that a tremendous increase in meat inspection duties has taken place and one Sanitary Inspector has been engaged on meat inspection duties for almost two full days every week during the year.

#### ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5918	5918

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Number killed	...	...	...	...	5918
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	5918

#### ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	231
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	3.93%

#### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	163
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	2.92%

All condemned food is disposed of at the Corporation's controlled tip.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

During the year, no new licences were issued to slaughter or stun animals, one licence was renewed and a total of eight licences were in force at the end of the year.

Licences remain in force for a period of three years.



## MEAT CONDEMNED AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE/BACON FACTORY

Disease	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis ... ..	6153
Cirrhosis ... ..	349
Abscesses ... ..	89
Pleurisy and Pericarditis ... ..	351
Parasites and Cysts ... ..	285
Peritonitis ... ..	130
Swine Erysipelas ... ..	307
Pneumonia ... ..	21
Nephritis ... ..	8
Emaciation ... ..	153
Bruising ... ..	25
Emphysema ... ..	3

### MEAT CONDEMNED—SUMMARY

	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis ... ..	6153
Other Diseases ... ..	1721
<b>Total weight condemned</b> —3 tons, 10 cwts., 1 qtr., 6 lbs.	
<b>No. of visits made to slaughterhouse</b> —193	

## (2) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

### CANNED GOODS

Meat Products ... ..	236 tins
Fish ... ..	67 tins
Milk ... ..	104 tins
Fruit ... ..	1159 tins
Vegetables ... ..	225 tins
Jam and Marmalade ... ..	23 tins
Cream ... ..	5 tins
Soup ... ..	6 tins
Broth ... ..	2 tins
Mincemeat ... ..	1 tin

### MEAT.

Meat (Beef, Pork, Ham, Veal, Mutton) ... ..	1343 lbs.
Sausages ... ..	90 lbs.

### FISH.

Mixed Fish ... ..	38½ stone and 3 boxes
Shell Fish ... ..	2 kits and 1 barrel

### BOTTLED FOOD

Peanut Butter ... ..	2 pots
Paste ... ..	5 pots
Sauce ... ..	1 pot

### OTHER FOODS

Cheese ... ..	30½ lbs.
Margarine ... ..	6 cwts.
Steak Puddings ... ..	12
Dried Egg ... ..	175 lbs.
Cereal ... ..	4 packets
Fish Cakes ... ..	4 boxes and 107
Fruit Wafers ... ..	9 lbs.
Sweets ... ..	14 lbs.
Pies ... ..	2
Chicken Cutlets ... ..	20 packets
Chickletts ... ..	6

## RODENT CONTROL

Two Rodent Operatives were employed during the year and statistics relating to the work carried out are given below.

In addition to the large number of inspections made by the Rodent Operatives, 81 inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The number of complaints received was 39 more than the previous year and there is no doubt that the service continues to be of great benefit to the town in keeping down rats and mice.

It was not necessary to take any statutory action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, during the year.

Number of complaints received re rats and mice	...	415
Number of premises visited for Survey	...	1201
Number of premises given first treatment	...	365
Number of premises given second treatment	...	56
Number of premises given third treatment	...	5
Number of premises given routine treatment	...	19
Number of premises given re-infestation treatment	...	12
Number of visits made (Survey and Treatment)	...	3400
Number of pre-baits laid	...	5521
Number of pre-baits taken	...	3834
Number of poison baits laid	...	1318
Number of poison baits taken	...	803

### Sewer Rat Control

Three treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. The methods employed were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A summary of results of the third treatment is recorded below.

#### November, 1953—Sewer Treatment No. 12

Section	No. of manholes	No. baited	No. of M.H's showing prebait taken	No. of M.H's showing complete prebait taken (on one or both days)	No Takes
Rodwell	243	58	26	20	32
Wyke	207	—	—	—	—
Westham	279	124	45	28	79
Park	107	76	32	18	44
Town	62	47	23	18	24

Weather during this treatment was very dry and work was not hampered by the usual flooding of sewers and manholes at this time of year. The results indicate a moderate infestation of the sewers, with the exception of Wyke area. Sewers in Lane-house Rocks, Upwey, Broadwey and Radipole areas were tested during the year and again were found to be free from rat infestation.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

During the year the Town Council authorised the service of four Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936. Three Statutory Notices authorised at the end of 1952 were also served during 1953. Of the total of seven Statutory Notices served four were not complied with and the Town Council decided to institute legal proceedings against the persons concerned. Details of these cases were as follows :—

1. A Statutory Notice had been served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owner of a house requiring him to carry out works to remedy dampness. The Magistrates made an Order for the repairs to be carried out within two months and awarded costs against the defendant. At the expiration of the two months the owner had not carried out any works and the defendant was again before the Magistrates who thereupon made another Order, this time for the work to be commenced within 21 days following which a daily penalty of £1 would come into operation. The owner again failed to comply with the Order and the matter was before the Magistrates for the third time at the end of November, 1953. The Magistrates ruled that the daily penalty should commence on the following day, the 28th November, 1953, and by the end of the year the owner had still not commenced any repairs.

2. A Statutory Notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was served on the owner of a house in which there was serious dampness and other defects. The owner failed to carry out the repairs and though many requests were sent after the Notice had expired the owner firmly refused to comply with the requirements of the Notice. Legal proceedings were taken against the owner and the magistrates made an Order for the work to be carried out within 28 days. The owner complied with the Order of the Court.

3. A Statutory Notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was served on the owner of one house which was let to two separate families. The notice was in respect of dampness and other defects which constituted statutory nuisances. The owner failed to carry out any repairs and eventually it became necessary to institute legal proceedings. The Magistrates made a Nuisance Order requiring the owner to carry out the repairs within two months. The owner complied with the Magistrates Order.

4. Difficulties arose in the premises referred to in case 3 above regarding the joint use of sanitary accommodation. Each



of the two floors on the premises were let to separate families and the only convenience was in the yard at rear and could only be approached through the living room used by the tenant of the ground floor rooms. The two families disagreed and as a result the ground floor tenant refused the occupants of the first floor rooms access to the sanitary accommodation.

The owner had not made any special provisions as regards sanitary accommodation when arranging the tenancy terms in respect of the first floor rooms and, as the first floor tenants were entirely without sanitary accommodation, a Statutory Notice was served on the owner under the provisions of Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring an additional water closet accessible to the occupiers of the first floor rooms. The owner failed to comply with the Statutory Notices and it then became necessary to commence legal proceedings. The Magistrates ordered the owner to provide sanitary arrangements within two months and imposed a fine of £2. The owner complied with the notice by providing an additional sanitary convenience on the first floor.

## SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The supervision of public conveniences continued to be the responsibility of the Health Department. The new conveniences for both sexes at the Old Fire Station, St. Edmund Street, were completed and in use by Easter, 1953. These conveniences have been built to a very high standard and they are intended to serve the shopping area of the town.

The number of inspections of public conveniences rose to 811 as against 659 in 1952, and 514 in 1951. From this considerable number of inspections it can be seen that a very large amount of time is devoted by the Sanitary Inspectors to the supervision of public conveniences. Each year the receipts from conveniences increase and the work of inspection and control increases accordingly. So large a proportion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is now taken up by this work that it will soon be necessary to consider whether special provision should not be made for this duty so as to allow the Sanitary Inspectors to devote more time to their statutory duties.

During the year the Health Committee gave further consideration to the provision of additional conveniences on the sea front. A number of sites were suggested by the Committee but their recommendations were not accepted by the Town Council. At the end of the year no decision had been reached although the Town Council agreed that there was a need for additional conveniences on the sea front.



## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Reason for Inspection	No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Nuisances or defects found	Nuisances or defects remedied
Premises under P.H.A. Drainage Work Only	330	1193	186	227
(a) New Buildings	325	437	—	—
(b) Existing Buildings	92	333	53	55
Camping Sites, Vans, Tents	14	303	7	7
Food Premises	221	555	54	44
Dairies and Milk Shops	28	62	—	—
Factories Act	84	107	4	5
Shops Act	77	156	2	2
Public Conveniences	48	811	—	—

Number of complaints received—345

## OTHER VISITS

Visits to houses of T.B. patients	...	...	...	32
Visits to houses for the purpose of Housing Act, 1936 (Houses already subject to Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders)	...	...	...	312
Visits to houses following applications for Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)	...	...	...	2
Visits to offensive trade and marine store premises	...	...	...	4
Visits re smoke abatement	...	...	...	95
Visits to mosquito and midge breeding grounds	...	...	...	22
Visits to Piggeries	...	...	...	4
Inspections of places of entertainment	...	...	...	11
Inspections of licensed premises (public houses and bars)	...	...	...	13
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	81
Visits under National Assistance Act, 1948	...	...	...	22
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	4
Visits to Corporation Controlled Tip	...	...	...	23
Inspections of Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	90
Visits under Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	29
Visits re Seaweed Flies	...	...	...	38
Visits to Mortuary	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	456

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	44
Eaves guttering and rainwater pipes repaired, cleansed or renewed	10			
Walls rendered, pointed or repaired	...	...	...	13
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22
Windows repaired	...	...	...	13
Firegrates and ranges repaired or renewed	...	...		4
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...		3
Drainage systems repaired or renewed	...	...		55
Sanitary Conveniences insufficient or defective	...			10
Cesspools emptied after notices	...	...	...	11
Nuisances from smoke and effluvia		...	...	3
Accumulation of manure or refuse	...	...	...	6
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
Other miscellaneous defects remedied		...	...	29

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	NOTICES			
	Served		Complied	
	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936	131	19	126	17
Shops Act, 1950	2	—	2	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	40	—	30	—
Factories Act, 1937	4	—	4	—
Housing Act	1	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Twenty-three visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with the investigation of infectious diseases and nine visits in connection with Food Poisoning cases.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of houses treated for disinfection (infectious diseases)	27
Number of rooms involved	...
Number of houses treated for disinfestation	...
Number of rooms involved	...
Number of articles of bedding, etc., disinfected	...
Number of articles destroyed	...

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## Survey of action during year.

### (1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	20	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	137	91	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers Premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	157	100	4	—

### (2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	I	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sanitary Conveniences</b>					
(a) Insufficient ...	I	I	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective ...	I	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	5	I	—	—

## (3) Outworkers.

(a) Number of lists received from employers	...	3
(b) Number of employees concerned	... ..	—
(c) Number of outworkers involved	...	3
(d) Number of Outworkers living outside the Borough		—
(e) Number of lists received from outside Authorities		5
(f) Number of Outworkers involved	... ..	15

## (4) Total inspections for all purposes (including outworkers).

No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Defects found	Defects remedied
84	107	4	5

**DEALERS IN OLD METALS**

Two dealers in old metals are registered by the Council under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.

**OFFENSIVE TRADES**

There are three rag and bone dealers' premises in the Borough, two of which were established prior to the operation of the Public Health Act, 1936. The third was established in 1948 and is subject to the consent of the Town Council being obtained annually.

There is one registration for the trade of fat melting and fat extracting.



BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE  
REGIS.



**METEOROLOGICAL  
DEPARTMENT**

*Summary for the Year  
1953*

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Lat.— $50^{\circ} 36' 20''$  N. Long.— $2^{\circ} 26' 50''$  W

21 feet above Sea Level.

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J. N. HAMBLY, M.B.E.,  
Lt.Cdr. R.N. (Ret.)  
Borough Meteorologist

Meteorological Station,  
Weymouth



# Remarks.

## GENERAL

The year started rather dry but cold, the first three months being well below the average for rain and nearly two degrees below for temperature. This was balanced by a rather wet May and July and a very mild November and December.

Very little snow fell and frost was almost absent.

## RAINFALL

A total of 22.54 inches was nearly 6.5 inches below the average, and on only one occasion did more than one inch fall in a day and that was on July 11th.

October was the wettest month with 3.20 inches, with March and December the driest months with just over 0.5 inches.

A dry spell of 27 days occurred in March.

## TEMPERATURE

Temperature for the year of  $52.9^{\circ}$  was slightly above the average of  $51.7^{\circ}$ .

November was  $3.6^{\circ}$  above the average and December  $5.0^{\circ}$  above.

The hottest day was the 29th June with  $83.0^{\circ}$  and the coldest the 8th February with  $23^{\circ}$ .

## SUNSHINE

Weymouth received a good amount of sunshine during the year and had 125 hours above the average.



# METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Highest Shade Temperature (°Fah)	86	86	83	77	87	83
Lowest Shade Temperature (°Fah)	19	29	22	28	25	23
Mean Maximum Temperature (°Fah)	59.0	60.6	—	57.5	57.8	57.1
Mean Minimum Temperature (°Fah)	46.9	46.8	46.2	46.4	45.8	46.1
Mean Temperature (°Fah)	52.9	53.7	—	52.9	51.8	52.3
Total Rainfall (Inches)	30.84	27.5	35.46	40.3	29.36	22.6
Hours of Bright Sunshine	1877.5	2055.3	1824.0	1829.0	1885.3	1916.5
Number of Days with Sunshine...	292	301	286	306	312	302
Greatest Daily Amount of Sunshine (Hours)	15.1	15.5	14.9	15.0	15.0	14.7
Highest Barometer Reading (Inches)	30.787	30.843	30.633	30.622	30.830	30.762
Lowest Barometer Reading (Inches)	28.900	28.616	29.101	28.587	29.080	29.271

# **PRESSURE (Inches) 9-00 a.m.**

Barometer Readings at 0900 hours G.M.T. corrected for Temperature and Altitude

1953	Month	Mean Inches	Highest Inches	Date	Lowest Inches	Date	Relative Humidity %
	January	...	30.64	19th & 20th	29.51	1st	84.6
	February	...	30.69	28th	28.62	10th	83.1
	March	...	30.76	10th	29.69	30th	80.5
	April	...	30.29	15th	29.34	27th & 28th	75.9
	May	...	30.45	28th	29.57	14th	76.0
	June	...	30.19	6th	29.75	15th	74.0
	July	...	30.27	19th	29.55	12th	83.2
	August	...	30.36	6th	29.69	21st	81.06
	September	...	30.50	6th	29.29	21st	77.8
	October	...	30.56	6th	29.51	27th	81.4
	November	...	30.54	16th	29.27	1st	84.5
	December	...	30.41	31st	29.75	3rd	86.8

THE WINDS

Observed daily at 0900 G.M.T. to 8 points of the Compass.

MONTH	DIRECTION.								
	N.	N.E.	E	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
January	3	5	2	I	—	I	4	4	II
February	3	7	I	—	—	7	4	2	4
March	I	14	4	—	—	2	3	2	5
April	4	6	4	—	4	3	4	3	2
May	I	6	10	I	3	5	2	3	—
June	2	5	I	I	2	3	7	4	5
July	I	2	—	—	3	12	12	—	I
August	I	2	—	2	3	8	7	2	6
September	I	7	I	—	—	8	6	I	6
October	—	12	2	2	—	2	3	I	9
November	—	2	I	3	2	10	2	I	9
December	I	5	8	3	2	I	I	2	8
Year	18	73	34	13	19	62	55	25	66



# BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

1953 Month	Actual Sunshine (Hours)	Percentage of Average	Greatest		Number of Days with Sunshine Recorded	Sunless Days	Cloud Amount 1—8 9 a.m.
			Daily Amount (Hours)	Date			
January	...	101	7.5	20th	19	12	6.0
February	...	105	9.4	27th	22	6	5.5
March	...	110	10.1	17th	28	3	3.4
April	...	119	12.6	22nd	28	2	3.6
May	...	104	14.7	26th	31	—	3.8
June	...	94	14.2	28th	24	6	5.1
July	...	111	13.9	4th	30	1	4.5
August	...	134	13.9	3rd	29	2	3.7
September	...	120	11.7	7th	26	4	4.6
October	...	109	9.6	8th	27	4	4.4
November	...	85	8.0	4th	20	10	6.3
December	...	90	6.3	24th	18	13	6.5
Year	...	106.8	14.7	26th May	312	53	—

Average Yearly Sunshine—1789.3 hours

RAINFALL

1953	TOTAL FALL		Percentage of Average	Days of 0.2 m/m or more		Wet Days of 1.0 m/m or more	Greatest fall in 24 hours inches		Date
	Inches	m/m							
January	...	0.76	19	31	5	3	0.43		5th
February	...	1.74	44	81	11	8	0.34		10th
March	...	0.57	15	28	4	4	0.30		29th
April	...	2.16	55	130	14	11	0.52		26th
May	...	2.78	71	172	9	7	0.94		18th
June	...	1.85	47	104	11	9	0.82		21st
July	...	3.03	77	168	9	7	1.63		11th
August	...	1.64	42	77	11	8	0.57		19th
September	...	2.61	66	124	12	11	0.46		22nd
October	...	3.20	84	97	11	9	0.8		29th
November	...	1.63	41	53	11	10	0.36		3rd
December	...	0.57	14	16	10	6	0.15		30th
Year	...	22.54	575	90	118	93	1.63		11th July

Average Yearly Rainfall—28.91 inches

# TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR (Fah.)

1953 Month	9 a.m. Mean	Max. Mean	Max. & Min.		Difference from Average	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
			Min.	Mean					
January	39.91	45.7	34.6	40.1	-2.6	53	29th	26	5th
February	40.1	47.1	35.1	41.1	-1.6	59	27th	23	8th
March	44.1	51.1	36.1	43.6	-1.2	58	21st	29	3rd
April	49.5	55.9	41.7	48.8	+0.2	67	24th	34	11th
May	55.9	63.4	48.6	56.0	+2.3	72	3rd	33	12th
June	60.3	66.9	52.8	59.9	+0.8	83	29th	42	4th
July	61.9	68.2	55.9	62.1	-0.1	78	4th	47	11th
August	64.7	70.5	56.3	63.4	+0.8	79	10th	47	19th
September	60.3	66.1	53.3	59.7	+0.2	77	8th	44	26th
October	55.2	60.6	47.1	53.8	+0.3	69	3rd	36	26th
November	54.7	55.7	46.3	51.0	+3.6	60	29th	37	3rd
December	49.1	53.3	43.6	48.4	+5.0	61	2nd	33	26th
Year	52.9	58.7	45.9	52.3	+0.7	83	29th June	23	3rd Feb.



## WEYMOUTH SUNSHINE HOURS RECORD SINCE 1895.

Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours
1895 ...	1953.7	1910 ...	1693.7	1925 ...	1710.1	1940 ...	1883.3
1896 ...	1904.0	1911 ...	2090.9	1926 ...	1554.4	1941 ...	1669.0
1897 ...	1827.5	1912 ...	1582.4	1927 ...	1692.7	1942 ...	1663.0
1898 ...	1828.4	1913 ...	1583.7	1928 ...	1898.9	1943 ...	1769.0
1899 ...	2030.2	1914 ...	1826.8	1929 ...	2024.1	1944 ...	1741.1
1900 ...	1624.7	1915 ...	1729.8	1930 ...	1803.7	1945 ...	1564.9
1901 ...	1675.9	1916 ...	1677.5	1931 ...	1582.8	1946 ...	1648.2
1902 ...	1421.4	1917 ...	1653.5	1932 ...	1554.4	1947 ...	1626.2
1903 ...	1554.0	1918 ...	1804.9	1933 ...	1987.3	1948 ...	1877.5
1904 ...	1675.6	1919 ...	1803.5	1934 ...	1807.0	1949 ...	2055.3
1905 ...	1706.9	1920 ...	1523.4	1935 ...	1706.2	1950 ...	1820.6
1906 ...	1908.3	1921 ...	1934.6	1936 ...	1549.3	1951 ...	1828.3
1907 ...	1784.1	1922 ...	1748.0	1937 ...	1628.5	1952 ...	1895.5
1908 ...	1875.9	1923 ...	1695.6	1938 ...	1646.6	1953 ...	1916.5
1909 ...	1938.3	1924 ...	1687.6	1939 ...	1786.4		

Average—1789.3 hours

Greatest amount of sun in one year—2090.9 hours in 1911

Least sunshine in one year—1421.4 hours in 1902



